

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 067177
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /014 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP:GBHELMAN:MR

APPROVED BY: IO:MESWOPE

-----262016Z 128207 /50

R 260021Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067177

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DHAHRAN FROM JIDDA
MARCH 23:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, US, ASEC

SUBJECT: SAG CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY OF ITS OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES

SUMMARY: SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF FONMIN PRINCE SAUD, MFA
CHIEF OF PROTOCOL STATES SAG IS WORRIED ABOUT SECURITY OF
ITS OFFICES AND REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.
PROTOCOL CHIEF POINTED OUT THAT URBAN TERRORISTS HAD RE-
CENTLY ACTED IN A DARING AND SUCCESSFUL WAY IN WASHINGTON,
AND NOTED THAT SAG ASSIGNS MORE THAN NINETY SECURITY PEOPLE
TO PROTECT THE U.S. EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL.
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SAG COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO
UNDERSTAND IF ONE OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES WERE VICTIMIZED IN
A SECURITY INCIDENT. WE POINTED OUT TO PROTOCOL CHIEF
DIFFERING BUT NONETHELESS EFFECTIVE SECURITY TACTICS
FOLLOWED BY WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK POLICE FORCES. SOME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 067177

FURTHER REASSURANCE TO MFA, HOWEVER, WOULD BE USEFUL.
END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD,
MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AMBASSADOR SONBOL TOLD DCM THAT
SAG WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SECURITY OF ITS OFFICES IN
THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SAFETY OF ITS PEOPLE. IN

NEW YORK, FOR INSTANCE, THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A NUMBER OF THREATENING PHONE CALLS. NEW YORK POLICE DID NOT SEEM VERY CONCERNED WHEN THESE CALLS WERE BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION. IN WASHINGTON, CRIME AND MUGGINGS WERE A CONSTANT WORRY TO SAUDI DIPLOMATS, AND THE SAUDIS WERE NOW ALL THE MORE CONCERNED AFTER TERRORISTS (HANAFIS) SHOWED THEY COULD SEIZE BUILDINGS AND TAKE MANY HOSTAGES, INCLUDING THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON HIMSELF.

2. AMBASSADOR SONBOL SAID THIS WAS SOMETHING OF AN EXPLORATORY CONVERSATION. SAUDI OFFICES WOULD LIKE MORE SECURITY IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, BUT THEY WERE NOT EXACTLY DEMANDING IT YET. THEY WONDERED, THOUGH, IF ANYTHING MIGHT BE DONE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ADDITIONAL SECURITY. SONBOL MENTIONED THAT THE SAG HAD A CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATE AMERICAN COMPANY (WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS HEADED BY FORMER PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS) TO ENHANCE SECURITY OF SAG OFFICES IN U.S. VIA ALARMS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS.

3. IN CLOSING, SONBOL SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE TWO MAIN POINTS: FIRST, THE SAG PROVIDES AT ITS OWN EXPENSE MORE THAN NINETY NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND SECURITY OFFICIALS TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY COMPOUND, AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL COMPOUND IN DHAHRAN. A FOLLOW-CAR HAS EVEN BEEN PROVIDED NOW FOR THE CONSUL GENERAL. SECOND, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT IN VIEW OF ALL THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS DOING FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 067177

SECURITY OF ITS AMERICAN OFFICIAL GUESTS, THE SAG COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO UNDERSTAND IF ANYTHING SERIOUS WERE TO BEFALL A SAUDI FACILITY OR A SAUDI REPRESENTATIVE IN THE U.S. SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF, SONBOL WONDERED IF IT MIGHT NOT BE BETTER FOR THE USG TO TAKE SOME PREVENTIVE ACTION NOW, AND PRECLUDE AN INCIDENT THAT COULD BE MOST EMBARRASSING TO BOTH SIDES?

4. DCM REPLIED THAT MINISTRY'S CONCERN WOULD BE FULLY PASSED TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HAVING HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN SECURITY PROBLEMS AFFECTING ANOTHER ARAB EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (LIBYAN), DCM SAID IT WAS NOT THE PRACTICE OF OUR SECURITY FORCES TO PERMANENTLY STATION RESOURCES AT SPECIFIC POINTS. MOBILE COVERAGE OF AN AREA IN DEPTH, USING MEN ON FOOT AND SQUAD CARS, WAS CONSIDERED THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MANPOWER AVAILABLE. IN OCCASIONS OF HIGH AND SPECIFIC THREAT, OF COURSE, THE POSTURE COULD BE RECONSIDERED. BUT THE DCM ASKED SONBOL TO CONSIDER THAT IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON -- WHERE POLICE FORCES HAVE HAD

TO PROTECT LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF DIPLOMATS FOR MANY YEARS
-- U.S. AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL PROBLEMS OF
SECURITY OF EITHER A CRIMINAL OR POLITICAL NATURE. THIS WAS
AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD, AND SUGGESTED THAT OUR SECURITY COVERAGE,
WHILE UNOBTRUSIVE, WAS GENERALLY EFFECTIVE. DCM FINALLY NOTED
THAT THE USG WAS ALSO TRYING TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL
SECURITY OF ITS POSTS ALL AROUND THE WORLD, AND ANY
SUCH STEPS THE SAUDIS TOOK REGARDING THEIR OWN EMBASSIES AND
CONSULTES COULD BE HELPFUL IF PROPER
PROCEDURES WERE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED.

5. COMMENT: MFA MIGHT BE REASSURED IF EMBASSY CAN GO
BACK TO SONBOL SOMETIME AND AFFIRM THAT SAUDI SECURITY
CONCERNS HAVE BEEN STUDIED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH
BASICALLY FINDS THE PROCEDURES IN FORCE TO BE EFFECTIVE.
WE SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT WHEN ANY SPECIFIC
PROBLEM IS ANTICIPATED, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EXECUTIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 067177

SECURITY FORCE WOULD RESPOND QUICKLY TO A SAUDI
REQUEST FOR HELP. (WE PRESUME THERE IS NO CHANCE OF
MORE SPECIFICALLY AND VISIBLY GUARDING THE SAUDI EMBASSY
AND RESIDENCE IN WASHINGTON, AND MUST HOPE THAT NO
INCIDENT OF THE SORT AMBASSADOR SONBOL MENTIONED WILL
COME TO PASS.) PORTER UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICE PROTECTION RIGHTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE067177
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNP:GBHELMAN:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770105-0157
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770319/aaaaapym.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 88003ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2986374
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAG CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY OF ITS OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES SUMMARY: SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF FONMIN PRINCE SAUD, MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL STATES SAG I S WORRIED ABOUT SECU
TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, PINS, PDIP, SA, US
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/88003ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009